SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : I have already told that this question is related to Indian Airlines ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the information, please give it.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : This is Vayudoot flight, which she has herself said...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please write to her.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : I will write to her.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, A-320 flights were grounded after the Bangalore crash. It was to be re-introduced in a phased manner. We find that several aircrafts have been lying parked in various airports of the country. And there has been a shortage of flights in va.ious sectors. I want to know whether all the A-320s were totally re-inducted or this phased programme is still an on-going process. And if so, are we still considering to by further 12 A-320 aircrafts under our earlier agreement?

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, what the hon. Member says does not seen to be correct. Some of the aircrafts, that is, A 320s, have been grounded because the pilots are under training. The moment they come from the training, we are going to gradually introduce them.

About the other part of the hon. Member's question, we are going to purchase new aircrafts ...(*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you do not give us a chance. I want to ask a question related to Bihar State ...(*Interruptions*)... Bihar is being neglected ...(*Interruptions*)... The flight to Patna has been suspended.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will disclose a secret to you. On the floor of the House if you ask a question, you will get a negative reply. Please better meet the Minister.

[*Translation*]

**Pollution Caused by Thermal Power Plants**

*759. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power plants emitting ash and sulphur dioxide;

(b) Whether the pollution caused by such thermal power plants is a health hazard;

(c) if so, whether the emission control devices installed in these plants are not functioning satisfactorily; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken to control the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (d). There are 66 Coal-based thermal stations operating in the country. The flue gases from these thermal plants contain ash and sulphur dioxide. The emission can become a health hazard if the level of emission exceeds the standards of emission levels prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard. The standards prescribed are observed by the installation of emission control devices such as Mechanical Precipitators and Electrostatic Precipitators. The new thermal power plants installed or being installed in the country are equipped with Electrostatic Precipitators of better design and high efficiency ranging from 99.5% to 99.9% to keep the emission levels within the statutory requirements.

For the older power plants, a Renovation and Modernisation programme has been launched since September, 1984 for installation/augmentation of Electrostatic Precipitators of high efficiency in respect of 104 generating units covering 24 thermal stations. These units had installed pollution control devices as per the technology available at the time of their installation, which are now inadequate as per the present standards. The work in this regards has been completed in respect of 34 thermal units and work on remaining 70 generating units is under various stages of implementation.

Further work on 23 old units covering 13 thermal plants is included in the second phase of Renovation and Modernisation programme for the 8th Plan.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know the number of thermal power plants emitting ash and sulphur dioxide and whether the pollution caused by these thermal power plants is a health hazard?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 66 coal based thermal power stations in the country.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to know further whether the Government has taken satisfactory measures to control the effluents being discharged by these plants.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the guidelines of the State Control Board, the Pollution Board and the Central Pollution Control Board, electro-static Precipitators are being installed in 104 units of the existing 66 coal-based Thermal Power Stations. In the old units, the mechanical precipitators are being replaced by electrostatic precipitators under the modernisation programme of 1984 so that the level of pollution could be reduced.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The pollution comes not only via the smoke but the huge amount of coal dust and fly ash which accumulate by the side of the power plant is also a source of pollution. In West Bengal there are some projects to utilise this burnt coal and fly ash and then transform them into bricks or other useful needs. In West Bengal we are tying that under the Chairmanshp of Shir Somnath Chatterjee in the district of Hugli. There are reports that some other States like Gujarat and Maharashtra have also attempted tht.

MR. SPEAKER : You are replying to the quesion rather than asking the question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My question is very simple. As a measure of controlling pollution generated from the power plants,will this Department be in a position to finance such projects or give aid to such projects?

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that all the thermal plants of Bengal are old ones. So, mechanical precipitators had been installed in all of them. Now, electrostatic precipitators are to be installed in them under the 1984 renovation modernisation scheme of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the question and what a reply he is giving. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : I am giving reply only. It is regarding pollution in Bengal. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : The question is whether the Government will provide funds for the brick-kilns?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a suggestion and I have noted it down. It will be considered ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : There are a number of thermal power stations

throughout the country. Particularly in Vijayawada, during the summer season, due to whirlwind and gale, the coal ash is spreading throughout the city. So such coal disposal plants cause health hazard. What is the remedy with the Government to stop such a pollution?

MR. SPEAKER: Precipitators have been installed.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : Precipitators are for the fly ash and not for the disposal of the coal ash. Coal ash is dumped in big tanks. During the summer season, due to heavy whirlwind and gale, it is spreading in the city. Is there any proposal with the Government of India not to allow this coal ash during the summer season to pollute the city?

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are working in accordance with the guidelines given by the Ministries of Environment and Health for controlling pollution. New plants are being set up to stop the pollution being caused by the spread of ash.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the hon. Minister please state whether there is any alternative to devices of mechanical precipitators and electrostatic precipitators which have proved a failure in checking pollution. The Thermal Power Plant at Kota is a major plant and it is coal based. People living in its vicinity are very distressed because of pollution caused by it. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to convert the thermal power stations from coal based to gas-based stations where gas-line is available. If so, by when it will be done?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mechanical precipitators are an outdated technology which are being replaced by electrostatic precipitators in order to reduce pollution. It is a modern technology. Besides this, high chimneys are being installed so that flue gases being discharged by these plants do not cause any health hazard. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied this.

[*English*]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Environmental pollution is the bane of most metropolitan cities. Is the Government considering any proposal to shift the thermal power stations from major cities like Delhi and Bombay?

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know whether you are going to shift the big plants from the big cities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the plants which have already been set up cannot be shifted but new plants will be set up at a safer distance.

SHRI AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pollution being generated by the plant at Kota in Rajasthan is proving harmful not only to human beings but also to animal kids. Is the hon. Minister aware of it? If so, by what time the problem will be solved?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Sir, the Kota Power Plant is the largest plant for supplying electricity in Rajasthan. So far as the problem of pollution is concerned, the Government is considering to sort out this problem to the extent it is possible.

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon, Minister in his reply stated that most of the power stations have been electrified. The level f pollution has been increasing much due to effluents being generated by the Badarpur Thermal Power Station and Indraprastha Power Station. Delhi is the most polluted city. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal in the Eighth Five-year plan to electrify these power stations. If so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the renovation modernisation scheme, electrostatic Precipitators are being installed in Badarpur Power station. Besides

this, a handling ash plant is also being set up so as to certain pollution.

[*English*]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, out of the 66 coal based thermal power stations, the Minister has stated that work on 24 thermal stations is being taken up since September, 1984 and 13 thermal stations will be taken up in the Eight Plan. This adds to only 37 stations. I want to know what about the remaining 29 thermal power stations whether these are to be taken up in the Ninth Plan?

[*Translation*]

KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that work on 34 station and not 24 stations have been completed. Work is in progress in 70 units. Work on 13 units will be taken up in the Eighth Plan.

[*English*]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, thermal station and thermal unit are different things. Only 24 thermal stations have been taken up since 1984 and thirteen thermal stations are being taken up in the Eighth Plan, out of 66 thermal stations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 134 units in 60 thermal power stations. I have already said that work is in progress in 70 units and completed irrespect of 34 units. Work in 13 units will be taken up in the Eighth Plan.

**Funding of Suburban Railway Projects in Bombay**

*760. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had proposed a tripartite arrangement among the Government of Maharashtra, IRCON (Indian Railways Construction Company) and the Railways regarding commercial exploitation of Railway premises in Bombay for subsequent use of the earnings for funding the Suburban Railway projects in Bombay;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has agreed to this proposal; and

(c) if so, the further action being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The proposal has not been finalised, because the modalities have not yet been worked out.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Sir, the Railway Board, in 1986, had decided not to spend in metropolitan cities for new railway projects and it expects that the Urban Development Department should spend for it. The Urban Development Department has no money for that. So, is it true that is is proposed to raise the funds in metropolitan cities by utilising air space over railway stations for construction of commercial complexes?

SHRI MALLKARJUN: Sir, it is in order to mobilise additional resources that since 1986, the Railways have decided to take up pilot project to utilise the piece of land in a metropolitan city, particularly to take up Bandra in Greater Bombay In this connection, the Railways had a meeting with the Bombay Regional Development Authority (BMRDA) to agree for it because over for this land which we are going to use, the change of land use permission has to be taken from the State Government and the BMRDA has agreed for it. Certain modalities have also been worked out and ultimately a draft proposal, which had been agreed to by the Board, was also signed by the BMRDA. But, unfortunately, the BMRDA,after having signed it, has put a condition and the condition is that the surplus amount which we will get will not be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. In this connection, as you